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THE PRINTING BILL

The printing bill, which was before the last Congress, and which was clearly described at the Public Documents Round Table of the Asbury Park Conference, by Mr. George H. Carter, Clerk of the Joint Committee on printing, failed to be enacted into law, and will probably be introduced into the coming session. The chairman of the A. L. A. Committee on Public Documents, Mr. George S. Godard, suggests that members of the Association write to their Congressmen, calling attention to the printing bill as embodying much that is desired by the depository libraries, and expressing the hope that the bill may be enacted into law. Mr. Carter's paper, above referred to, may be found in Asbury Park Conference Proceedings, pp. 301-312.

PATENT OFFICE DRAWINGS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Several libraries have complained of the unsatisfactory service of the U. S. Patent Office in filling orders for the drawings and specifications of patents. The A. L. A. Committee on Public Documents have taken up this matter with the Commissioner of Patents, but without any satisfactory result thus far. In a recent letter to Senator D. U. Fletcher, chairman of the joint committee on printing, whose assistance was solicited, the Commissioner says:

" . . . In reply thereto, I have to say that 21 libraries in the United States took advantage of the annual rate of \$50.00 for issues of patents, and that from July 1, 1912 to the end of the year 1915, orders amounting to 2,282,547 patents had been filed by the libraries. This is, approximately, three-fourths as many copies as are drawn annually in the regular course of business by this Office.

"The young men engaged in filling these orders are unable to keep up with the work. Orders for 388,206 copies of patents issued from July 1, 1912, to December 31, 1912, have been sent to 21 libraries. To 19 libraries, 663,523 copies of patents issued during the year 1913 have been sent. A total aggregating more than a million copies for the years 1912 and 1913 have been sent, and the orders for the said years have been about completed.

"An additional employee has been assigned to this specific work, with the result that greater progress will be made in disposing of the accumulation of orders.

"The fact that occasional duplicate copies are included, and that others are missing, is regrettable. Duplication can not always be avoided, and many copies are exhausted when the particular numbers are reached by the clerks. The exhausted copies are, however, forwarded as soon as they can be reproduced.

"The only suggestion that I can make as to how this matter may be remedied is